



at statistical data. The common denominator amongst violent felons was burglary. If you could take the burglar off the street, ultimately, you're going to save lives. Today's burglar could be tomorrow's robber, rapist or killer.

"That's the whole point of this," Blozis continued. "The whole DNA processing area reduces crime and saves lives. DNA is a very, very powerful law enforcement tool."

Collecting DNA from burglary scenes, catching criminals and getting their DNA in the system early accomplishes a similar goal as that of including arrestees in the DNA database. Since criminals — especially burglars — are known to be recidivists, the next time they strike and leave their DNA, law enforcement will know who they are.

"For a female to be raped and her rape kit to sit on the shelf because there's no suspect, that is a tragedy in itself," Blozis said. "The databases are only as strong as what the input is. The more crimes we get in there ... the better."

Like all DNA measures, if Kentucky agencies implement a similar program and begin processing more burglary cases through KSP's forensic lab, a backlog and shortage of resources is inevitable. And with an average of nine months to one year's turnaround time

from the lab, Blozis said cases will come to a halt while investigators await results.

"I'm sure as short staffed as your lab is, all law enforcement, we're short detectives who are working on high profile, priority cases like homicides and rapes," Blozis said. "Now they're going to be looking into burglaries. They get notified that so and so committed a burglary six months ago, now they have to use their resources to track them down. That's our job. That's my job to go lock these people up and take them off the street. Then, from the other side, now we're going to need more prosecutors, more public defenders, and also, you have to look at your correctional facilities."

But, regardless of the hurdles and costs that must be overcome to expand the analysis of more burglary cases, Blozis said you cannot put a cost on a human life, or safety, for that matter.

"This is all about the victims," he said. "Making a safer community, reducing crime where you live. For a person to come home routinely and to go through, hopefully, months and years of not knowing what a crime is, that's what it's all about." 🍷

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DNA Internet Resources

www.dna.gov — **The president's initiative to advance justice through DNA technology**

Online training opportunities for law enforcement, victim advocates, forensic scientists, officers of the court, researchers, crime lab managers and policy makers. DNA-related grant information. Publications containing information on DNA technology and its applications in criminal justice systems.

www.dnasaves.org — **DNA Saves**

Website created by Jayann and David Sepich, parents of a girl who was raped and murdered whose case was eventually solved by DNA. This site provides information about the value of DNA and arrestee DNA testing laws.

www.denverda.org/DNA/DNA_index.htm —

Denver District Attorney DNA Resources

Includes legal decisions about a variety of DNA-related issues, information on the Denver DNA Burglary Project, including using DNA to solve property crimes. Website also includes the video, DNA: Critical Issues for Those who Work with Victims.

<http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/html/codis1.htm> —

FBI Combined DNA Index System

Information about CODIS, including the number of investigations aided to date. ■

Sgt. Joseph Blozis



Detective Sgt. Joseph Blozis was employed by the New York City Police Department from 1979 to 2008. For 13 years as a senior sergeant in the Crime Scene Unit and designated as supervisor of the detective squad, he responded to scenes of serious crimes and incidents within New York City. His duties included the supervision of the search, collection, preservation and documentation of all types of physical and trace evidence. In 1993 and 2001, he oversaw both crime scene investigations involving the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. On Sept. 11, 2001, he was on scene as both towers collapsed and was immediately assigned to what is now known as Ground Zero until its completion in May 2002. In 2005, he was reassigned to the Police Crime Laboratory as coordinator of the Biotracks DNA program. ■